

VZCZCXR06000  
RR RUEHPT  
DE RUEHBY #1073 3370519  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
R 030519Z DEC 09  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2385  
INFO RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE 6822  
RUEHPT/AMCONSUL PERTH 5087  
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY 5091  
RHEHAAA/THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC  
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 001073

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, EEB/ESC (TOM HAMMANG), EEB/TFS  
(CHRIS BACKEMEYER), NEA/IR (RAJEEV WADHWANI)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/02/2019  
TAGS: ECON ENRG EPET ETTC PREL AS  
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA: LNG LTD. AND IRAN SANCTIONS ACT

REF: A. STATE 121808  
1B. 2007 PERTH 15

Classified By: Political-Economic Counselor Edgard Kagan, Reasons 1.4 (b)(d).

¶1. (SBU) Econoff spoke with Liquefied Natural Gas Limited (LNG Ltd.) Managing Director and CEO Maurice Brand on December 2. Our former Consul General in Perth last spoke with Brand regarding the Iran Sanctions Act on March 16, 2007 (reftel B). Responses to reftel A follow below.

¶2. (C) According to Brand, LNG's original interest was to set up a small platform on Qeshm island to liquefy and export LNG globally. However, no agreement was ever reached with Iran and the project never materialized. Brand said no one from the company has visited the site in the past two years and there has been no negotiation activity on the project since, stating that, "LNG has never been more than a potential developer" for the project.

¶3. (C) Brand revealed that over the past four years LNG has spent about USD 1 million on trips, studies, and other associated expenses related to the project. While conscious of U.S. sanctions and their negative repercussions, Brand blamed dealing with Iran's "internal difficulties" as the real reason why no deal ever came to fruition. He maintains that the investment is still viable, "If the Iranians ever get their act together." Brand said the investment, if carried out, would be worth approximately USD 600 million.

BLEICH